

I CLAIM:

1. In a wheel lift tow device of a tow truck to tow a
5 front wheel drive vehicle having a centrally located
extendable support beam having a free end to which is
attached a cross bar,

said support beam attached to said cross bar at a
location between free ends of said cross bar,

10 said cross bar having a pair of slider arms extending
outwardly from the free ends of said cross bar and
telescoping laterally relative to the free ends of said
cross bar,

each slider arm having a forwardly directed portion
15 adapted to engage corresponding under sides of a pair of
wheels on the vehicle to be towed,

a swivel arm scoop claw extending in a forwardly
direction from each of said slider arms,

each said swivel arm scoop claw being mounted on and
20 rotatable about respective pivots on said telescoping slider
arms so that said swivel arm scoop claws may be moved
laterally in opposite directions to adjust the distance
between said swivel arm scoop claws and may be pivoted so as
to engage the undersides of said pair of wheels on sides
25 opposite from that engaged by the forwardly directed
portions of said slider arms, thereby cradling said pair of
wheels for lifting said vehicle, and a hydraulic cylinder
for powering each of said claws,

wherein the improvement comprises:

30 said hydraulic cylinders being laid fixed and parallel
to each other, and

each said slider arm having a slotted plate
accommodating a respective head of a pistol rod of each
respective hydraulic cylinder.

5 2. The wheel lift tow device as in Claim 1, wherein
each hydraulic cylinder for each said swivel arm scoop claw
is located between upper, lower, front and rear plates of a
cover sleeve.

10 3. The wheel lift tow device in Claim 1 in which the
distal portion of each said swivel arm scoop claw engaging a
wheel is straight in linear shape, and extends at a right
angle from a proximal end arm of each said swivel arm scoop
claw.

15 4. The wheel lift tow device as in Claim 1 further
comprising each wheel lifting slider arm including a wedge
sleeve adapter insertable over a respective distal arm of
each said wheel lifting swivel arm scoop claw, said wedge
20 sleeve adapter having a slanted tire-accommodating surface
extending therefrom.

 5. The wheel lift tow device as in Claim 4, wherein
said wedge sleeve adapter supports the lateral forces of the
25 wheel of the vehicle while the wheels are in the cradled
position.

 6. The wheel lift tow device as in Claim 4 wherein
each said wedge sleeve adapter slides over each said claw
30 arm, of each said swivel arm scoop claw, to provide a space
and to reduce the distance between said respective claw arms
and said respective slider arms, where small tires or flat
tires can being lifted.

7. The wheel lift tow device as in Claim 1 further comprising a pressure limiting sensor valve in each hydraulic fluid comprising a pressure limiting sensor valve
5 in each hydraulic fluid line providing hydraulic fluid to each respective hydraulic cylinder, said valve terminating hydraulic fluid flow when a predetermined threshold pressure of said claw member against a respective tire of a disabled vehicle to be towed.

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8. A method of lifting one end of a four wheeled front wheel drive vehicle comprising the steps of:

placing an end of a centrally located extendable support beam adjacent a front end of said vehicle to be
15 lifted, said support beam having a free end to which is attached a cross bar, said support beam attached to said cross bar at a location between free ends of said cross bar, said cross bar having a pair of slider arms extending outwardly from the free ends of said cross bar and said
20 slider arms telescoping laterally relative to respective free ends of said cross bar, each slider arm having a swivel arm scoop claw pivotally mounted at one end on said slider arm,

using at least one hydraulic cylinder for advancing
25 said cross bar until each said slider arm of said pair of slider arms makes contact with one side each of two adjacent tires on said vehicle,

using said at least one hydraulic cylinder for rotating each of said swivel arm scoop claws until said swivel arm
30 scoop claws extend on the side of said two adjacent wheels opposite that of said slider arm,

using said at least one hydraulic cylinder for retracting said slider arms until said swivel arm scoop

claws make contact with sides of the two adjacent wheels opposite that of contact made by said slider arm,

providing a cover sleeve covering said hydraulic cylinders to insure separation of said hydraulic cylinders
5 from drive machinery of said front wheel drive vehicle; and

raising said support beam to lift one end of said vehicle.